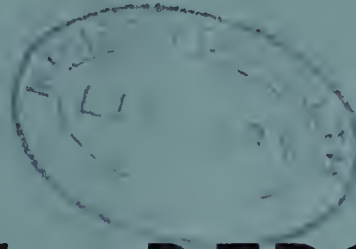
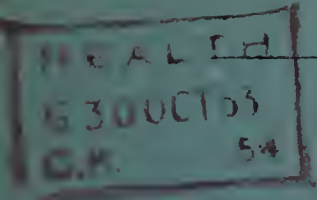


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TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER and
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1952

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TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,250 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	13,850
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	£104,053
Sum represented by Penny Rate (year 1951-52)	...	...	...	...	...	£417
Total number of houses in Urban District (31-12-52)	...	...	...	...	...	4,339

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population		...	13,850 (Registrar General's figure)			
			M.	F.	Total	1951
<u>Live Births</u> —	Legitimate	...	103	91	194	197
	Illegitimate	...	5	9	14	8
Total		...	108	100	208	205
<u>Still Births</u> —	Legitimate	...	1	2	3	2
	Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	1
Total		...	1	2	3	3
<u>Deaths from all causes</u>		...	96	103	199	199
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :						
Legitimate	...	...	2	2	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0	0
Total		...	2	2	4	5
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks			2	2	4	3 (Legitimate)
			Urban District		England and Wales	
Crude Live Birth rate	15.02	per 1,000 of population.	Comparison		15.3	
Corrected Birth rate	15.17					
(Comparability Factor 1.01)						
Still Birth rate	0.216	per 1,000 of population.	„		.35	
Crude Death rate :						
All Causes	14.3	per 1,000 of population.	„		11.3	
Corrected Death rate	12.15					
(Comparability Factor .85)						
Infants under 1 year	19.2	per 1,000 live births.	„		27.6	
Death rate of Infants under 4 weeks	19.2	per 1,000 live births.	„		—	

Analysis of deaths from all causes.					Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...				2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...				—	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	8	10	18
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	7	18	25
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	16	8	24
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	20	25	45
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	12	8	20
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	8	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	96	103	199

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. *Comparability Factors.* Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

I. STAFF.

1. *One part-time Medical Officer*, who acts for Trowbridge U.D., Bradford-on-Avon U.D., and is also an Assistant County Medical Officer.
2. *Senior Sanitary Inspector:* L. B. Densham, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Cert.F.I.
Deputy Sanitary Inspector: Donald S. Smith, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
3. *Clerical Staff:* A typist whose time is divided between the Trowbridge Public Health Department and the other authority for which the Medical Officer acts.
4. *Rodent Operator.*

- II. (a) *Laboratory Facilities.* The Salisbury Area Pathological Laboratory, at Salisbury Infirmary, undertakes all bacteriological and pathological examinations.
- (b) *Ambulance Facilities.* The County Council's Ambulance Station for this area is at Woolley Grange, Bradford-on-Avon.
- (c) *Nursing in the Home.* There are two district nurses and one midwife.
- (d) *Home Helps.* The County Council Home Help service is well established and great assistance has been given in cases of illness and infirmity. It should be clearly understood that Home Helps are not intended, and should not be expected, to undertake any nursing—their duties are household ones only.
- (e) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.* The County Council Clinic, The Halve, is used for all clinics.
The Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.
Immunisation. A session is held every fourth Thursday.
A Chest Physician attends a Tuberculosis Clinic each Wednesday and Saturday.
Specialist Clinics are held on other occasions.
- (f) *Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.*
1. *Trowbridge and District Hospital.* This is a general hospital with a Maternity Department of 13 beds.
 2. *Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital.* This hospital still admits cases of infectious disease. The beds are mainly used for general medical purposes. There are also 8 Tuberculosis beds for male cases.
 3. There is a private Maternity Home : it accommodates 16 persons—13 maternity cases and 3 others.

CARE OF THE AGED.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47. One case, an old man of over 70, who had been "sleeping rough" in other people's property (a smithy, vans, lavatories) or ditches, had to be dealt with under this Act.

Many people had attempted to persuade him to stay in the Welfare part of the Hospital which he entered voluntarily from time to time : he would disappear from the town and be found in this Home, and when everyone was relieved that he was not out in torrential rain or heavy frost, he would turn up again.

Eventually, action had to be taken under the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951, when a magistrate accepted certificates from the M.O. and his own doctor : the Council proceeded in the usual way to obtain an order for 3 months. This order has been repeated and he is still in Meyrick Close, Salisbury.

During the investigations into this case it was surprising to find how many people helped this man. The girls in the little cafés where he obtained his food ; the customers there who put up with the effluvium from his unwashed self and clothes ; the staff of the County Welfare Office, whose general office was frequently his sitting-room ; the police, who had taken him to the station more than once, and warmed and dried him, and tried to persuade him to go away to a Home ; a blacksmith with a smithy in a quiet lane in the middle of the town, who let him sleep in the smithy as there was a glimmer of a fire left at night ; innumerable people who gave him a few cigarettes and chaffed with him ; one or two public houses whose attendants tried to keep him to his limit of "rough cider," which was the main cause of his downfall, literally as well as metaphorically.

He is happy where he is, and is liked by all the staff, as he has a quiet sense of humour, and never says an unkind word to, or about, anyone.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—There has been no change in the water supply; the amount has been always sufficient and the quality excellent.

REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Two samples of water taken from the Public Water Supply were submitted for bacteriological examination.

In each case the Pathologist reports that the bacteriological examination showed no evidence of pollution.

The Engineer of the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board has supplied copies of analyses taken throughout the year in the town: all have been highly satisfactory.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours: NIL per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours:

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from lactose.									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above:

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C.: NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C.: NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date 6/3/52.

(Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—As before.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—The Consulting Engineers commenced the reorganisation scheme for the works in December.

A satisfactory effluent has been maintained, but under increasing difficulties in keeping the plant in a reasonable state of efficiency.

SEWERAGE.—Apart from Council housing and private housing-estate extensions, no new works were carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Measles		Acute Poliomyelitis				Whooping Cough	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F
0	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
1	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	1	8	4
3	1	—	18	9	1	3	1	—	5	8
5	1	—	32	23	3	2	—	3	1	9
10	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	—	61	43	5	5	2	6	15	24

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery	
	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	1
15	—	—	—	3
45	—	1	—	—
65	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ...	—	1	1	5

Acute Poliomyelitis. As will be seen in the tables above, this small urban area shared in the poliomyelitis epidemic. While fortunately the majority of cases, even those originally showing some degree of paralysis made excellent recoveries. There was one death, and one other very serious case, a boy who, after several weeks of acute illness, was able to be transferred to the Orthopaedic Hospital and is making progress in movements of the affected parts.

All cases are admitted to Claverton Isolation Hospital, Bath, automatically; but the local Isolation Hospital, now called "St. John's Hospital," admitted several with doubtful diagnoses, of which one was a true case.

The outbreak proved the close co-operation that exists between the Isolation Hospitals and the local authorities, both urban and county.

Measles. During December it was evident that an outbreak of measles was affecting the younger age groups of children in the town. Although the majority of cases were of normal severity, a few required admission to hospital for more nursing care than the parents could give. The usefulness of the local Isolation Hospital was once more proved: some of the children admitted were very gravely ill, but all recovered satisfactorily.

It cannot be stated too often or too emphatically, that measles is not a trifling complaint, especially in young children. In fact, as with whooping cough, the younger the child, the more dangerous the illness. If parents would endeavour to keep their young children from contact with known cases, and also keep them out of crowded places (even parties in the Christmas season) they might save a young child a serious illness, and themselves a great deal of heartache.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses occupied at 1/1/52	...	...	857
Completed and occupied during 1952	...	...	84
Total occupied at 31/12/52	...	...	941

There were 40 changes of tenancy during the year, which on re-letting provided accommodation for 136 persons.

The 84 houses completed during the year provided accommodation for 296 persons.

As will be seen from the above, considerable progress was made during the year at the Council's Studley Green Estate, and development is proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

A. BYERS, *Housing Manager*.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered at the Government controlled slaughterhouses in the town, and the number found affected with Tuberculosis, or other diseases, and the respective percentages. A large amount of time has been devoted to meat inspection during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED AT BACON FACTORIES AND MINISTRY OF FOOD SLAUGHTERHOUSES, TROWBRIDGE, 1952.

	<i>Bulls, Steers, Heifers and Cow-Heifers.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed ...	1,370	967	3,833	5,764	54,921
Number inspected ...	1,370	967	3,833	5,764	54,923*

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	7	43	38	125*
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	425	489	18	661	1,122
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	31.17%	51.29%	1.59%	12.13%	2.27%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned ...	7	20	4	—	77
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	122	284	6	—	1,622
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	9.42%	31.44%	0.26%	—	3.09%

* Includes 2 pigs received at slaughterhouse as dressed carcasses.

Percentage of all Cattle inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis : 39.49%.

Percentage of all Cattle inspected affected with tuberculosis : 18.53%.

The total weight of meat and other foods condemned and destroyed as unfit for human food during the year was as follows :—

				<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Beef	...	...	...	27	4	0	13	0
Mutton	...	...	...	1	14	0	20	0
Veal	...	...	...	1	1	2	27	0
Pork	...	...	...	39	17	2	13	0
Other Foods	...	...	...	0	15	1	0	8
Total				70	12	3	17	8

The number of premises registered in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is as follows :—

1. (a) For the Sale of Ice Cream ... 37
- (b) For the Manufacture of Ice Cream ... 6
2. For the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted,
 pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale ... 10

ICE CREAM HEAT TREATMENT, ETC., REGULATIONS, 1947-51.

Fifty-six samples of ice cream were sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury, for examination, the results of which are shown in the following table. A copy of the Pathologist's Report was sent in each case to the retailer from whom the sample was obtained. Three samples classified Grade III and one Grade IV, respectively, were produced in the Town. After consultation with the manufacturer a check was made of the apparatus and processes of manufacture. Several check samples were subsequently taken, all of which were classified Provisional Grade I.

Periodical inspections have been made of premises where ice cream is sold or manufactured in the town.

It is to be regretted that no legal bacteriological standards exist for ice cream.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Number of Samples Taken	Provisional Grade (Pathologist's Report)			
	I	II	III	IV
56	51	1	3	1

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The number of slaughtermen whose names appear on the Register is 21.

DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK.

A Register is kept giving details of all persons carrying on the trade of distributors of milk in the district and of all premises used as dairies, not being dairy farms. There are 9 Distributors of Milk and 4 premises used as Dairies at present on the Register.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Licences have been issued to use the following Designations under the above Regulations during the year :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Dealer's Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" ... | 5 |
| (2) Dealer's Licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ... | 4 |
| (3) Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" | 1 |
| (4) Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ... | 6 |

MILK SAMPLING.

The following table gives details of the samples of milk submitted to the Pathological Department, Salisbury, for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk), Regulations, 1949.

In every case a copy of the Pathologist's Report was sent to the dealers concerned. Three samples did not comply with the prescribed standards and appropriate action was taken, and check samples obtained proved satisfactory. These three samples were bottled at establishments outside the town, and the Sanitary Officers of the districts involved were immediately notified.

Designation of Milk	Number of Samples taken	Number complying with the prescribed standards	Number not complying with prescribed standards
Pasteurised	32	30	2
T.T. Pasteurised	10	9	1
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—
TOTALS	43	40	3

FOOD BYE-LAWS.

Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air have been made by the Council and came into operation on the 11th day of December, 1950. Improvements have been effected to premises where food is prepared and sold during the year and visits have been made with a view to ascertaining that the Bye-laws are being observed.

SHOPS, STALLS AND PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Visits to Food Premises (excluding Government Slaughterhouses and Bacon Factories) | 310 |
| (2) Visits to Bacon Factories | 439 |
| (3) Visits to Government Slaughterhouses | 520 |

RODENT CONTROL.

The soil sewers of the town have again been treated twice during the year in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Rodent Operator has treated the following premises for rodent infestation during the year :—

<i>Type of Property.</i>		<i>No. of Properties Inspected.</i>	<i>No. of Inspections Made.</i>	<i>No. of Treatments to Properties.</i>
Local Authority Property	...	9	97	8
Dwelling-houses	...	132	527	31
Business Premises	...	38	404	21
Agricultural Properties	...	12	27	1
TOTALS		191	1055	61

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	28	31	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	94	60	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	3	5	—	—	3
TOTAL		125	96	1	—	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	5	5	—	4	—	10
(c) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	1	1	—	—	—	12
TOTAL		6	7	—	4	—	

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing / Making, etc. ... apparel \ Cleaning and washing	13	5	—	—	—	—	—	13
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

L. B. DENSHAM, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Cert. F.I.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

